

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR EVENING TELEGRAPH.

Reconstruction.

From the Tribune.

The testimony of A. H. Stephens, as printed elsewhere, will be read with a peculiar interest. The second officer in the Confederacy—but always regarded as a reluctant Rebel—possessing the confidence of the good men of the South more thoroughly than any of their leaders, his words have more than ordinary meaning. He tells us that an overwhelming majority of the people of Georgia are now willing to accept the results of the war in all their fulness, to become loyal citizens, and abandon forever any claim to exercise the right of Secession. That experiment is a failure, and if nothing else deterred them the memory of the dreadful war would be sufficient. Emancipation is accepted by the people in good faith. The negroes desire to work, and the relations between employer and employe are as satisfactory as in any part of the world. Other portions of Mr. Stephens' testimony seem to strengthen the general impression prevalent in the North that Georgia and other States in the South were forced into Secession by the Rebel leaders.

As to suffrage in the South, Mr. Stephens avers that a proposition to extend it to the negroes would not be adopted in Georgia. His own idea of a limited suffrage is very grateful, as an evidence of enlightenment on the part of Southern statesmen, which we hope to find more general. The general feeling in the South must depend to some extent upon such men as Stephens and Reagan. Their course now, in the face of public sentiment, shows the error of the President when he failed to accept the golden moment when the sword was in the scabbard. That mistake has made the work of reconstruction weary and difficult. With Congress strenuous and bold in behalf of nationality, with leaders like Stephens, willing to lead the Southern people in the path of progress, we shall rapidly advance toward a perfect Union—a Union of freedom and peace, and founded upon the brotherhood of man. With Andrew Johnson's aid the work would have been easy and harmonious.

The Contending Hosts.

From the Times.

The "grand advance guard" of the O'Mahony Fenians, under the generalship of the redoubtable Killian, are making comic history in a style of which Gilbert A. Beckett never dreamed. A quiet vein of the grotesque, verging on the ludicrous, and rising now and then to the laughable, was all of which that funniest of funny historians was capable. But the Fenians and their despatches, as manipulated by Killian, beat A. Beckett's inventions hollow. From the far-off corner of Maine comes an unceasing peal of uproarious fun and folly, the only drawback to which lies in the fraud that taints the whole affair.

In the first place, there was to be a surprise and easy capture of some tangible point of British territory, to which end general Killian advertised in the newspapers that he was on the road thither. So valiant a hero scorned the idea of doing anything except in the most polite and public manner, and, therefore, he invited the British army and navy to take part in the spot, and calmly witness his conquest.

In the next place it was necessary to convey to a wondering world some distinct evidence of the mighty rush of armed Fenians to the scene of the predicted triumph. Despatch number one told us that thirteen "armed Fenians" had gone by steamer to Eastport, leaving their arms and ammunition to be conveyed by a schooner advertised to sail on the next day. Despatch number two told us that the Fenians were waiting for more soldiers of the same stamp, of whose weapons nothing was said. Despatch number three signalled the arrival of another equally extensive band, one half of whom were said to be general officers, deeply in love with the skill and prowess of the Fenian leader. But we need not recapitulate too minutely. Each succeeding day brought tidings of the same sort; Killian gathering a mighty host at the rate of a baker's dozen daily, and contemplating some prodigious deeds which the wide world and the vicinities were regularly apprised beforehand, that they might render its accomplishment impossible.

After having thus whetted the public appetite, and prepared all of us for some decisive victory, Killian transmitted over the wires on Sunday an intimation that "five armed Fenians" had captured a British flag on Indian Island. Here was something to be proud of. Here must have been fighting, and the wide world and the vicinities were regularly apprised beforehand, that they might render its accomplishment impossible. After having thus whetted the public appetite, and prepared all of us for some decisive victory, Killian transmitted over the wires on Sunday an intimation that "five armed Fenians" had captured a British flag on Indian Island. Here was something to be proud of. Here must have been fighting, and the wide world and the vicinities were regularly apprised beforehand, that they might render its accomplishment impossible.

These mighty movements of the O'Mahonies, however, are evidently unpalatable to the Sweeney faction, whose glories are thus eclipsed by the warlike Killian. Something must be done to sustain Roberts in the Presidency and Sweeney as the great Fenian Generalissimo. What shall it be? The capture of the Thousand Islands? A descent upon Manhattan in Lake Huron? A feat to threaten God Island, in the Niagara? Martial reader, be more moderate in your exactions. Messrs. Roberts and Sweeney are going—yes, are positively going, are advertised to go, and unquestionably will go—to a public meeting to be held in this city this evening! That is all. They don't intend to march to the battle-field until the Fenian bonds have been sold, and whose bonds are left, there will be no reason for fighting.

Just now, the odds are in favor of O'Mahony and Killian and their bonds, as against Roberts and Sweeney and their bonds. The people are tired of talk, and demand decisive action. The Fenian authorities in London, who have carried on all the proceedings, defend the Killian as at least a league ahead of his rivals, Roberts and Sweeney must talk lightning to-night if they would overtake him.

The German Question—The Game Against Austria.

From the Herald.

The present position of Prussia on the question that agitates Germany is in one sense remarkably like that of the radicals on the vital topic of our own politics. We made war for four years against men who proposed to carry certain States out of the Union, claiming and declaring constantly that our nationality and existence depended upon the fact that no State could leave the rest. We triumphed; but no sooner was the war over than the dominant party stepped around to the views of our enemies, and declared that the States were out, all the time had been out, and that the question of the day was next

to determine the conditions on which they could come in. Prussia has just been guilty of the same fatal contradiction of herself. She and Austria together made war against Denmark for the two duchies, Denmark claimed them as her own; but Prussia and Austria declared that the rights of Denmark had expired; that the duchies belonged now to a German prince; and that the Scandinavian must give way. On this position the duchies were taken by force; but now Prussia repudiates all notion that Germany at large or any German prince has any rights in the matter; declares that the duchies belonged of right to Denmark, and now belongs to the Powers that war against her. She holds to this last view so tenaciously that she is even ready to make war against her late ally simply because that ally insists that the two Powers do not take the duchies for themselves, but for Germany. In our own case, we know very well what turned the radicals round. To cover and carry out party games it was necessary to hold opinions directly antagonistic to those of the war was waged on; and they faced about without scruple. They hold that the States are out in order to be consistent with something that they propose for the future career of the country. The radicals in the same way the Prussian change of front indicates a political game of so much future importance that mere consistency is a trifle in comparison with it.

This game is to be played on a large scale, and is altogether the arrangement of the European Napoleon and M. Bismarck. The state was doubtless made up at Biarritz last year. France a few years since desired to extend her empire in Asia, and to carry out her policy on the one hand and Germany on the other. Her wishes towards Italy induced the Italian war. That was a struggle in which France and Italy fought against Austria to make Sardinia the Italian power. The programme of the Italian war was stopped short of Venice; and it stopped where it did because if it had gone further the war would not have been against Austria merely, but against all Germany. It was the Italian war, however, which the Republicans would have been up, and anybody's throne might have gone down in a day. But stopping where it did, the consideration to France was made secure. That consideration was the golden moment when the sword was in the scabbard. Her desire in that direction was gratified.

The object of the war that is now to be made in Germany is to satisfy the cravings of France towards the Rhine, just as the Italian war did her craving towards Italy. It will France and another against Austria. The only difference is that the other is Prussia instead of Sardinia, and that Prussia is to be made the German power, as Sardinia was the Italian power. The consideration to France is the whole left bank of the Rhine. Timid reasoners suppose that France ought to hesitate to make one great German power, even more than one great Italian power; but having gone so far towards making one, she must perhaps make the other to balance it. It should be remembered also that France, aggrandized by these splendid acquisitions of territory in both directions, would have little to fear from either power.

If it be in reality the arrangement, it matters not what course Austria may take on the Schleswig-Holstein question. The war agreed upon will be brought about on that pretext or some other. It seems, indeed, to be well understood in Austria that that power can do nothing to avert the contest, and that giving way on one point would only cause her to be pushed on some other. She feels that she might as well fight where she is as anywhere else.

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The Political Situation—Plans of the Republican Party.

From the World.

It is not probable that the threatened impeachment of President Johnson will be attempted before the next session of Congress. The ensuing eight months are needed for ripening the conspiracy of the revolutionists. The Civil Rights bill has not been passed with the expectation that it will have any effect as law, but as a preliminary snare for entrapping the President, and more especially as a means of fomenting alienation between the North and the South. Who believes that it can be enforced? Violations of it are made punishable as crimes; but, by the terms of the bill, no criminal prosecution of the accused shall enjoy the right of a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed. A Southern jury will no more convict a fugitive slave than a Northern jury would have done under the Fugitive Slave law, from which some of its provisions are copied. There are still other reasons why it will not be enforced. The Judges of the United States Courts are so few, and so distant from each other, that their courts would not constitute adequate machinery for the administration of such a law.

There are but ten Circuit Judges in the whole vast area of the United States, and a bill has passed the House for reducing the number to five. The District Judges are also few and widely separated. In the great State of New York we have only two, Judge Betts, of this city, and Judge Hall, of Buffalo. The principal reason for the passage of the Fugitive Slave law was that the States had refused to allow their magistrates to administer the law of 1793, the distance of the United States Judges from each other rendered the law a dead letter. Accordingly, the law of 1850 authorized the appointment of Commissioners, who, like State Justices of the Peace, were more liberally distributed and easily accessible. But the number of fugitive cases hardly amounted to a dozen a year, while the negroes affected by the Civil Rights bill are numbered by the millions.

The bill authorizes the Circuit and District Courts to appoint as many Commissioners as they may deem necessary. The office of Commissioner is worth nobody's acceptance but that of a local politician, and the only one who can stand up against local opinion and accept these offices, nor can they take the test oath if they did. It is plain, therefore, that the Civil Rights bill will not be executed. There will be no adequate machinery for this purpose, and Southern juries would not convict under it even if there were. This must have been perfectly obvious to the concoctors of the bill, and to the members of Congress who passed it over the President's veto.

What, then, was their object? It was to find in its non-enforcement new topics of invective against the South, and new grounds of accusation against the President. The real obstacle to the success of the law is the repugnance of the South to the proposed President, and their disbelief in its constitutionality; in consequence of which Commissioners will not serve nor juries convict. But its failure will be attributed to the neglect and opposition of the President. The law authorizes him to bring before the courts special sessions of their courts at places where the laws are disregarded. Its authors expect to find cases in which this is not done, and to make it a prominent ground of the threatened impeachment.

The main purpose of the impeachment is to have the army under the command of a Republican at the Presidential election of 1868. With President Johnson in office, the Southern States would not choose Republican electors. If by counting the votes of the Southern electors the anti-Republican candidate should be elected, Mr. Johnson would, of course, hold that he was lawfully elected, and entitled to be inaugurated as President. If Johnson were to be removed, the Chief of the army, the Republican could not inaugurate their candidate, if he was not duly elected. The President, if, therefore, regarded by the Republican as an obstacle to be put

out of the way; but whether by impeachment or by a political maneuver, will not be fully decided until after next fall's elections. If the Republicans have their own in the elections, and make sure of a two-thirds majority in the next Congress, they will feel strong enough to impeach and depose the President, and will do it without further delay. In that case, they will take Chief Justice Chase as their candidate, and, by excluding the Southern electoral votes, they will stand a fair chance of inaugurating him. According to the Constitution, the Chief Justice must preside in the Senate when sitting as a court for the trial of impeachments. It will be a scandalous spectacle to see Mr. Chase sitting in a mock trial for deposing an officer whose removal is necessary to his own success. A judge should have no interest as a party; but Chief Justice Chase would be enlisted for the condemnation of the President by the strongest motives which can appeal to the ambition of a man of his rank. A recent Washington letter to a Western paper, the writer of which seems to have been fresh from an interview with Mr. Chase, closes a long recital with this remark:—

"Mr. Chase does not think that Congress and the President ever harmonize their views. He thinks the President has not the power to destroy the Union party; that one man, as he expressed it, however great his position, cannot do so. He thinks the President has not the power to destroy the Union party; that one man, as he expressed it, however great his position, cannot do so. He thinks the President has not the power to destroy the Union party; that one man, as he expressed it, however great his position, cannot do so."

Nothing is probably further from Mr. Chase's wishes than that the President and Congress should "ever harmonize," as his own Presidential hopes rest upon the continuance of the difference and the exclusion of the Southern States.

If the Republicans shall lose considerably in the Congressional elections, their tactics are not quite so clear. The adherents of Mr. Chase will still be for impeachment, since it is only by impeaching President Johnson that Mr. Chase could hope to be elected. If it would require merely a majority of the Northern votes. But since a reaction once set in is not likely to stop, a less radical set of politicians will be for dropping both Mr. Chase and the project of impeaching him, and running General Grant as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, trusting that the army would worship rather the rising than the setting sun, and that it would obey the Lieutenant-General instead of the constitutional President. The chief object of the Republicans is to exclude the South from the next Presidential election; they differ only as to the relative expediency of impeaching President Johnson, or running General Grant as the Republican candidate for the Presidency, trusting that the army would worship rather the rising than the setting sun, and that it would obey the Lieutenant-General instead of the constitutional President.

The Northern Abettors of Disunion.

From the Daily News.

The Times, commenting on our appeal to the President to protect the States of the Union in the exercise of their right of representation in the National Legislature, says:—

"So far as the Daily News is concerned, our rejoinder shall be brief. In its case we cannot complain of equivocation, or of the want of earnestness in behalf of Rebels and rebellion which has secured for it a wider circulation in the South than is enjoyed by any other Northern Democratic journal. Our rejoinder shall be brief. In its case we cannot complain of equivocation, or of the want of earnestness in behalf of Rebels and rebellion which has secured for it a wider circulation in the South than is enjoyed by any other Northern Democratic journal."

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SPECIAL NOTICES.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, APRIL 16, 1866. In compliance with the requirements of the United States at New York, Philadelphia and Boston and the Designated Depository at Baltimore, have been invited to discontinue receiving deposits on account of temporary loans for clearing houses, and to carry out the same on demand, in legal tender notes with interest at four per cent. per annum. J. H. MULLIGAN, Secretary of the Treasury.

THE SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA. The Corporation of The Safe Deposit Company of Philadelphia, in compliance with the requirements of their charter, hereby appoints TUESDAY, the 1st of May, 1866, for the opening of the books for subscription to the Capital stock of said Company, at the office of the President, Lie and Trust Company, No. 111 S. FOURTH STREET. Charles Macauley, Secretary.

CONCERT HALL.—THE HON. JOHN W. FORNEY will address the citizens of Philadelphia, under the auspices of the BAKER INST. THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1866. Subject:—The War for Human Freedom being fought in vain? Admission 25 cents. Tickets for sale at PUGH'S, 817 N. 3RD ST. and at the BAKER INST., SEVENTH and CHESTNUT STS. Lecture to commence at 8 o'clock. 417th

GARDEN AND AMBOY RAILROAD OFFICE. BORDENTOWN, MARCH 28, 1866. NOTICE.—The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Garden and Amboy Railroad Company will be held at the Company's office in BORDENTOWN, on SATURDAY, the 21st of APRIL, next, for the election of seven Directors, to serve for the ensuing year. SAMUEL J. BAYARD, Secretary.

NEW LONDON COPPER MINING COMPANY. The Annual Meeting of Stockholders for Election of Directors to serve the ensuing year, will be held at the Office of the President, at the City Hotel, No. 41 ARCH STREET, at 3 30 P. M. SIMON POEY, Secretary.

FEEDER DAM COAL COMPANY. The Annual Meeting of Stockholders will be held at the office of the Company, No. 233 South THIRD STREET, on THURSDAY, May 1st, at 12 M. When an election will be held for the election of Directors for the ensuing year. T. B. ENGLISH, Secretary.

DINING-ROOM.—E. LAKEMEYER, CARTER'S Alley, would respectfully inform the Public generally that he has just opened and made the place comfortable in every respect, and is now open for the reception of guests. He has opened a large and comfortable Dining-Room in the second story. His Sides, WHISKY, ETC., OF SUPERIOR BRANDS. 11

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MISSISS THORNHILL & BURNS, No. 1208 CHESTNUT STREET, HAVE JUST OPENED A BEAUTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF Children's Pique Coats AND DRESSES. ALSO, A CHOICE LOT OF (321m) CHILDREN'S AND INFANTS' CAPS. HOOP SKIRTS. DU PLEX SKIRT FASHIONS FOR 1866. BRADLEY'S DU PLEX ELLIPTIC (OR DOUBLE SPRING) HOOP SKIRT. Each Hoop of this PECULIAR SKIRT is composed of TWO BRASS RINGS, of steel, spirally braided together and firmly fastened to each other, forming at once the SPRING and most FLEXIBLE HOOP made. They will not bend or break like the single springs, but will preserve their perfect and beautiful shape, whether three or four ordinary skirts will have been thrown away as useless. Their wonderful flexibility adds greatly to the comfort and convenience, besides giving immense pleasure to the wearer, as will be particularly experienced by ladies attending crowd-drawings, balls, operas, etc. In fact, for the promenade, or horse, the church, theatre, or any other occasion, combining comfort, durability and economy, with that elegance of shape which has made the DU PLEX ELLIPTIC THE STANDARD SKIRT OF THE FASHIONABLE WORLD. Manufactured exclusively by the SOLE OWNERS of Patent, WESTS, BRADLEY & CAREY No. CHAMBERS and Nos. 79 and 81 RACE ST., NEW YORK. Merchants will be supplied as above, and by Philadelphia jobbers. FOR SALE IN ALL FIRST-CLASS RETAIL STORES IN THIS CITY. Dealers will be particularly supplied with BRADLEY'S DU PLEX ELLIPTIC SKIRT. BRADLEY'S DU PLEX ELLIPTIC SKIRT. Combining Durability with elegance of shape, New Spring Styles just received. J. M. HAFLEIGH, 312m No. 602 CHESTNUT STREET. BRADLEY'S DU PLEX ELLIPTIC SKIRT. Most fashionable and popular in use. For sale by J. G. MAXWELL & SON, 312m S. E. CORNER ELEVENTH and CHESTNUT. ESTABLISHED 1795. A. S. ROBINSON, French Plate Looking-Glasses, ENGRAVINGS, PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, ETC. Manufacturer of all kinds of Looking-Glasses, Portrait, and Picture Frames to Order. No. 910 CHESTNUT STREET, THIRD FLOOR ABOVE THE CONTINENTAL, PHILADELPHIA. 315 5

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